

EXHIBIT A

1
2 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
3 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
4 CENTRAL ISLIP DIVISION

-----X

5 APTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC,

6 Plaintiff,

7 - against -

8 VILLAGE OF EAST ROCKAWAY, NEW YORK,

9 Defendants.

10 NO.: 2:19-cv-03365-SJF-SIL

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11
12 131 Tulip Avenue
13 Floral Park, New York
14 February 6, 2020
15 10:02 A.M.
16
17

18 DEPOSITION OF PATRICIA RENNER,
19 a witness on behalf of the Defendant, taken by
20 the attorney for the Plaintiff, pursuant to Rule
21 30 (b) (6), and held before Deborah Thier, a Notary
22 Public of the State of New York at the above-stated
23 time and place.

24 * * * *

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1 give my presentation and then they decide, the board
2 decides what the budget will be, whether it's less or
3 more.

4 Q So you would come to the board on an annual
5 basis and say, here are the expenses we have, here is
6 what I recommend you ought to appropriate?

7 A Correct.

8 Q So you are familiar with the various expenses
9 of the village clerk's office?

10 A Correct.

11 Q I take it the villager clerk's office
12 performs at least a few tasks, I might be understating
13 it, for the village?

14 A Correct.

15 Q What are those tasks that are performed by
16 the village clerk's office?

17 A We collect taxes, property taxes, we collect
18 permit fees for parking, for landscapers, for
19 hairdressers, beauty salons in the village. We have
20 FOIA requests that we process.

21 Q Is that Freedom of Information Act?

22 A Correct.

23 Yes, we have several applications. We used
24 to do those and now we're not doing that anymore. We
25 have the solicitors, we have scavengers, we have --

1 Q Are scavengers secondhand dealers?
2 A Yes.

3 I believe that's -- I'm not sure what the
4 other ones are.

5 Q As village clerk, you would be familiar with
6 the time and materials involved in issuing the licenses
7 that you described earlier; is that right?

8 A I don't actually issue all of them. I may
9 approve them, but I don't do the issuing. I oversee the
10 people who do the issuing.

11 Q But you are personally familiar with how much
12 time it generally takes for them to do the issuance; is
13 that correct?

14 A I could approximate, I guess.

15 Q And you've done that issuance yourself
16 probably as deputy clerk as well?

17 A No, not really.

18 Q Have you ever personally ever issued a
19 solicitor's license to someone?

20 A No, not as of yet. It's a new process, so we
21 haven't actually -- well, no.

22 Let me -- we have received one as a result of
23 a complaint, we sent out one of the applications.

24 Q The office sent out an application to
25 someone.

1 Did that person return that application
2 filled out?

3 A No. It was just done recently, about a week
4 to two weeks ago.

5 Q With respect to the other business licenses
6 that you described, have you personally issued any of
7 those business licenses to an applicant before?

8 A Parking permits I've issued.

9 Q What about a landscape license?

10 A No.

11 Q Secondhand dealer license?

12 A No.

13 Q But you supervise the people who do issue
14 those licenses?

15 A Yes.

16 Q So you know the time and materials and
17 expense involved?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Are there any businesses that do not require
20 a license to operate in the village?

21 A I suppose so. I'm not really sure. Like a
22 CVS, I can't think of any license that the village
23 issued.

24 Q Are there any business licenses besides
25 solicitors in East Rockaway that require a criminal

1 background check?

2 A I don't -- I'm not sure. I don't think
3 so, but I'm not sure.

4 Q We were talking earlier about the other
5 business licensing that the clerk's office does.

6 Are you aware in your capacity of formulating
7 the budget of the village losing money on issuing any of
8 those licenses?

9 A I'm sorry, can you just repeat that?

10 Q Sure.

11 For example, let's take a landscaping
12 license, I believe the last -- I don't know what the fee
13 was, but are you aware that the village is spending a
14 higher amount to issue the license than it is collecting
15 as a fee from the applicant?

16 A No.

17 Q I realize this is personal, so I apologize in
18 advance for the awkwardness, what was your total annual
19 compensation in 2020, or what is your expected total
20 compensation in 2020?

21 A A hundred and six thousand.

22 Q Does that include bonus, retirement, health
23 and disability benefits?

24 A I don't receive a bonus. I have a longevity
25 check that I receive which is included in that.

1 Benefits are additional.

2 And what was the other item?

3 Q Any type of health, disability, life
4 insurance, if you were to add up all of your forms of
5 compensation, what --

6 A Well, we do get a -- if I should die, there's
7 a life insurance. But that would be extra that I'm not
8 including in that.

9 Q If you were to try to estimate your total
10 annual compensation, including all of those benefits for
11 2020, what do you think it would be?

12 A The only extra one would be the medical
13 benefit and the dental and eye glass, and that probably
14 is in the -- 'cause I have single, I don't have a family
15 plan, so that is probably an additional seventeen
16 thousand.

17 Q So, approximately, a hundred and twenty-three
18 thousand total annual compensation for this year?

19 A Yes.

20 Q What do you think it was in the years 2017
21 through 2019, could you give me an approximation?

22 MR. RYAN: As to what years, I'm sorry,
23 Counselor?

24 MR. COWAN: 2017 through 2019.

25 A Ninety-five thousand -- oh, with medical,

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1 then it would be another additional, maybe, fifteen
2 thousand.

3 Q So, approximately, in 2017 a hundred and ten
4 thousand?

5 A Correct.

6 Q Then 2018, approximately, a hundred and
7 fifteen?

8 A Correct.

9 Q Then 2019, perhaps about a hundred and twenty
10 thousand?

11 A Correct.

12 Q I won't hold you to that. I know these are
13 approximate.

14 Besides you, who are the other current
15 employees in the clerk's office?

16 A Cindy Lark is the deputy clerk, L-A-R-K,
17 Theresa Gaffney is the deputy treasurer, G-A-F-F-N-E-Y.
18 Then there's Robert Vito, he's the tax person, and Donna
19 Pagliero, P-A-G-L-I-E-R-O, she's the accountants
20 payable, and Cheryl Conklin, C-O-N-K-L-I-N, she is the
21 secretary to the board of trustees.

22 Q Total of six employees including
23 yourself?

24 A Yes.

25 Q What are Cindy Lark's main job

1 responsibilities?

2 A Cindy does the minutes. She also spearheads
3 a lot of our village events. She also does awards that
4 the board likes to give out at the board meetings, and
5 she keeps a calendar for myself and her as far as the
6 meetings go.

7 Q How many of her yearly hours involved tasks
8 related to solicitation?

9 MR. RYAN: Talking about commercial
10 solicitation?

11 MR. COWAN: Correct.

12 A Yes, she worked on finding addresses for me
13 for the one solicitation application that we did get.
14 So about an hour.

15 Q About an hour in the past three years?

16 A Well, we've only had one application in the
17 past three years, so yes.

18 Q Does she have any other job responsibilities
19 that might involve tasks related to solicitation?

20 A No.

21 Q I know you might need to give an
22 approximation, but what is her total yearly
23 compensation?

24 A Eighty-five thousand plus the family plan,
25 which I think is about twenty-five thousand, and that's

1 approximate. I'm not sure.

2 MR. COWAN: The health insurance is so
3 expensive.

4 MR. RYAN: Is that a question or just a
5 comment?

6 MR. COWAN: Just a comment.

7 MR. RYAN: I agree with that.

8 MR. COWAN: You can move to strike,
9 Counsel.

10 MR. RYAN: No, I agree with that. The only
11 thing you've said so far that I agree with.

12 Q You mentioned Ms. Gaffney is deputy
13 treasurer.

14 Does she perform any job tasks related to
15 solicitation?

16 A No.

17 Q What about Mr. Vito, any job tasks for him
18 related to solicitation?

19 A Future, possibly. Has he done any so far
20 with one application, no.

21 Q What about Ms. Pagliero?

22 A No.

23 Q No job tasks related to solicitation?

24 A No -- wait now, let me go back, 'cause the
25 solicitation -- if someone would -- if someone would be

1 handing in an application, Mr. Vito, Cheryl Conklin or
2 Donna Pagliero would probably go up to the counter and
3 receive the application.

4 Q What would they do with that after they
5 received it?

6 A They would give it to me.

7 Q So you would be doing most of the processing
8 of the application for a solicitor license?

9 A Correct.

10 Q Besides what you described about receiving
11 the applications, would Ms. Conklin have any job duties
12 related to solicitation?

13 A No.

14 Q Does the village have any independent
15 contractors who perform any tasks related to
16 solicitation?

17 A I'm not sure I understand the question.

18 Q All the people at the village who deal with
19 regulating solicitation, are they all village employees?

20 A Yes.

21 Q So you're not aware of outsourcing any tasks
22 related to solicitation in the village?

23 A Well, a background check is not done within
24 the village.

25 Q Has the village submitted any applications

1 for a background check to date?

2 A Well, we do background checks only in
3 recreation for contractors, but not for solicitation
4 yet. We've only received one application so far.

5 Q So there were no background checks done from
6 the years 2017 through 2019?

7 A No.

8 Q There hasn't yet been any background check
9 done in 2020?

10 A No.

11 Q Are there any other people in other village
12 departments who might have any job tasks related to
13 solicitation?

14 A No.

15 Q It's only the village clerk's office
16 that regulates solicitation?

17 A Correct.

18 Q How many hours did the village spend in tasks
19 in relating to licensing solicitors in 2017?

20 A Zero.

21 Q What about in 2018?

22 A Zero.

23 Q 2019?

24 A I'm not sure in 2019.

25 Q Can you give me a range of hours?

1 A I may have spent some hours developing
2 the new form. Several hours actually developing
3 the forms that would be used, but I'm not sure if
4 it was December or January of this year that I've
5 been doing that.

6 Q Would you say two to three hours developing
7 the form?

8 A No, longer.

9 Well, there was the -- the e-mails from
10 residents to be placed on a do not knock list and the
11 forms to be used for the applications.

12 Q Would you say between three and five hours?

13 A Between December and January I would say at
14 least seven hours.

15 Q Between December of 2019 and January of 2020?

16 A Yes.

17 Q What about from January through November of
18 2019, how many hours did the village clerk spend on --

19 A None.

20 Q How many hours under the new ordinance does
21 it take the village clerk's office to create a solicitor
22 license?

23 A To create the license? I'm not sure I
24 understand.

25 To create the application or to generate the

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1 low of a fee?

2 A We recently changed our fees, took the
3 fees out of the code because the entire code --
4 because they were outdated.

5 Q Up until June of 2019 had anyone come
6 to you and said twenty dollars is too low of a fee
7 for a solicitor's license?

8 A No.

9 Q Up until June of 2019 had anyone from the
10 village expressed concern that the village clerk's
11 office was losing money because it was charging too
12 little for a solicitor license?

13 A No.

14 Q I want to look now at or talk about the past
15 few years under this ordinance.

16 MR. RYAN: Which ordinance?

17 MR. COWAN: The ordinance in this
18 Exhibit 2.

19 Q In 2019 how much did it cost the village to
20 process and issue a single solicitor license under this
21 ordinance?

22 A I don't have a figure off the top of my head.
23 I don't know.

24 Q But it had to have been less than twenty,
25 otherwise you would have been losing money?

1 MR. RYAN: Object to the form of the
2 question.

3 A There were no commercial solicitation
4 licenses issued ever since I've been there that
5 I'm aware of.

6 Q So there's no way to know --

7 A Correct.

8 Q -- what the cost would be --

9 A Correct.

10 Q -- because no commercial solicitation
11 licenses were issued by the village?

12 A Correct.

13 Q There are certain exemptions in the
14 ordinance.

15 Do you recall that?

16 A No.

17 Q Certain groups don't have to pay, 'cause I'm
18 looking at Section C of 171-17.

19 A Yes.

20 Q Do you know how much it cost the village in
21 2019 to issue a single solicitor license for a member of
22 a recognized village association of war veterans,
23 police, firemen, or religious or charitable
24 organization?

25 A No license fee shall be charged.

1 You answered.

2 Q You're the person who would be most
3 knowledgeable about the expenses that the village incur
4 related to solicitation; isn't that right?

5 A Yes, I would be. I suppose I could be the
6 person that would be able to figure out how much, yes.

7 Q You know what these licenses cost to produce,
8 don't you?

9 MR. RYAN: Which licenses, Counselor?

10 MR. COWAN: The licenses that are referred to
11 in this draft amended Local Law at Exhibit 4.

12 A If asked to give an approximation, then I
13 could.

14 Q I want to turn with you in this draft law to
15 Section 171-2.

16 Do you see the reference in Section 171-2 to
17 another village?

18 A Yes.

19 Q If you look down with me at subsection
20 H, do you see in the last sentence of subsection H
21 that it refers to another village?

22 A Yes.

23 Q What village is that?

24 A Village of Floral Park.

25 Q Not the Village of East Rockaway;

1 As I stated before, we've never issued any
2 prior -- have not issued one yet since I'm in the
3 village other than the non-for-profit, which just was a
4 letter.

5 Q Was there a reason why the village never
6 previously gave licenses to for-profit solicitors?

7 MR. RYAN: Objection.

8 You can answer.

9 A There were never any requests for it. We've
10 never received a request for it.

11 Q Was there a policy against allowing it?

12 A No, just never received any solicitors
13 requesting it other than the non-for-profits or
14 canvassing.

15 Q In Section 171-2, the information that's
16 listed here in A through J, is all that information
17 requested on the current application that's been
18 recently developed?

19 A I believe, I believe we have everything but
20 the vehicles that would be used in solicitation on the
21 application. I missed that.

22 Q Is the application still in draft form or can
23 an applicant get it right now?

24 A They can get it. We've sent one out to an
25 applicant. As a result of a complaint, I sent one out

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1 to Altice.

2 Q Who is Altice?

3 A Cablevision.

4 Q So they were a company going door to door in
5 the village?

6 A Correct.

7 Q As you look through here at Section 171-2, do
8 you see any additional information that's included in
9 the new application that is not present here in the
10 ordinance?

11 A No.

12 Q So the village is not requesting any
13 information beyond what is here in the ordinance?

14 A Correct.

15 Q Currently if someone wanted to apply for a
16 solicitor license in the village, what would that person
17 have to do?

18 A They'd have to request an application and
19 they would be sent a cover letter with the application,
20 and then once it's sent back into the village, then it
21 would be reviewed by the board.

22 Then we'd have to go through the procedures,
23 background check and review, and then have to send them
24 either a permit or -- which we haven't even made up the
25 permit yet, because this is brand new, and then -- oh,

1 and they would have to show us too whether they're, you
2 know, the corporation or a -- if they're there as the
3 non-for-profit, and then they would get the permit.

4 Q Will the permit --

5 A And I'm sorry I'm stuttering a little, it's
6 because we haven't done it yet, so I'm kind of just
7 muddling through.

8 Q Understood.

9
10 A Thank you for answering my questions, by the
way.

11
12 A Do you think that the license itself, the
hard copy license, will be available by the fall of this
13 year?

14 Q Yes. I see no reason why it wouldn't be.

15 Q I want you to turn with me to subsection J in
that same section, and it says here such other
16 information as the board of trustees may require.
17

18 A What do you take that section to mean?

19 Q That the board might require some additional
information and we would request it in writing. After
20 reviewing, if they have any questions regarding what's
21 maybe not clear what goods they're going to be
22 soliciting, et cetera.

23 Q Anything else?

24 Q I can't think of anything.

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1 Q So the process is that the applicant first
2 submits the application; correct?

3 A Yes.

4 Q After that the village clerk's office takes
5 the application to the board of trustees; is that
6 correct?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Then the board of trustees reviews the
9 application; is that correct?

10 A Yes.

11 Q What would happen then if the board
12 determines that it needs other information as stated
13 here in subsection J?

14 A I would send something in writing to the
15 applicant requesting that information.

16 Q Is there any guidance in the ordinance about
17 what types of other information that the board could
18 request?

19 MR. RYAN: Objection.

20 You could answer.

21 A I'm not sure.

22 Q Just looking at subsection J --

23 A And, I'm sorry, --

24 Q Go ahead.

25 A -- the other aspect would be that I would

1 one hundred dollars, at least. My time, the board's
2 time, the denial letter, those all are costs that we
3 incur.

4 So, no, twenty-five dollars is not the total
5 cost of that.

6 Q What do you think the total cost is?

7 A Approximately?

8 Q Yes.

9 A Two hundred dollars.

10 Q Has the village ever licensed a solicitor
11 before?

12 A No.

13 Q So what basis --

14 A I'm using approximate in all my answers
15 because we have not done it. So we're approximating the
16 costs. We don't know for sure what the costs are until
17 we have one that we can process fully through the
18 application, and I don't know what the failure to pass
19 and be disapproved is because we haven't done that.

20 I'm approximating, I'm guessing. I'm not --
21 I don't know for sure because we haven't done it.

22 Q The two hundred dollar fee is a guess?

23 MR. RYAN: Object to the form of the
24 question.

25 You can answer.

1 fifty to seventy-five dollars per solicitor to do intake
2 and review of applications?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Is it true that the village has not yet
5 drafted its application for solicitor license
6 applicants?

7 MR. RYAN: Object to the form of the
8 question.

9 You can answer.

10 A No, we have drafted an application for
11 solicitors.

12 Q Has it been finalized?

13 A I sent one out. I'm not so sure, I may have
14 to amend it though to include the last -- during the --
15 during one of the questions there was a part that was
16 missing and I have to add that now.

17 Q So the application has been drafted but it
18 might be amended later on?

19 A Yes.

20 Q How can the village know that processing an
21 intake of each application will take fifty to
22 seventy-five dollars?

23 A Someone has to receive the application, stamp
24 it in, pass it onto me. It has to go on the agenda. It
25 has to be reviewed by the board, it has to be reviewed

1 -- our attorney is at the board meetings, so he will
2 also be inputting.

3 Then we have to then review all of the
4 background check, the application itself, what type of
5 business, make sure there's no additional information
6 that we're missing. So that's all time, and time is
7 money.

8 Q But all of those tasks are at this point
9 speculative because the village hasn't yet done this;
10 right?

11 MR. RYAN: Object to the form of the
12 question.

13 You can answer.

14 A We have not gone past sending the application
15 along with a letter.

16 Q That was done on one occasion?

17 A Correct.

18 Q What evidence or documents does the village
19 have to support its view that intake and review will
20 cost fifty to seventy-five dollars?

21 MR. RYAN: Object to the form of the
22 question. Object, the question's been asked
23 and answered.

24 Go ahead.

25 A Okay. So someone will have to take in the

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1 application.

2 MR. RYAN: I think his question was --

3 Q I'm asking specifically about documents. I
4 was unclear as well.

5 A I'm sorry, can you just repeat that?

6 Q What documents or other evidence does the
7 village have to support its view that intake and review
8 of applications will take fifty to seventy-five dollars
9 per applicant?

10 MR. RYAN: Same objection as before.

11 A It's an approximation. I am not -- it's
12 nothing definitive. There's no paperwork definitively.

13 Q I'm looking now at the section of
14 interrogatory number five where it talks about
15 enforcement.

16 Are you with me on that?

17 A Yeah.

18 Q It says fifty to seventy-five dollars per
19 solicitor; right?

20 A Yes.

21 Q What basis does the village have for its view
22 that each solicitor will impose a fifty to seventy-five
23 dollar enforcement burden on the village?

24 MR. RYAN: Object to the form of the
25 question. Object that the question has been

1 asked and answered.

2 You may answer.

3 A The enforcement personnel for each
4 application, which we only had one, so it's an
5 approximate, it's not a definitive, and you have to keep
6 -- for every application that we -- well, the one
7 application that we've had so far has been as a result
8 of a complaint from a resident which then generated code
9 enforcement.

10 So I'm not going through the phonebook
11 looking for solicitors. I'm going based on complaints
12 from residents. So that generates a code enforcement
13 response. So that's a salary for the code enforcement
14 person, and Tom Smith, the supervisor of the code
15 enforcement, they're being utilized.

16 Q So Mr. Smith supervises and then there's a
17 full-time individual; correct?

18 MR. RYAN: Objection. Asked and answered.
19 You can answer.

20 A Yes.

21 Q And then four part-time, is that also
22 correct?

23 A Yes.

24 Q What research did the village do about
25 the cost of enforcement of its solicitation code